

Message Text

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21

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9122

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT TGEN ETRD

SUBJECT: USE OF FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY UNDER ATTACK?

1. THE FEBRUARY 8 PEOPLE'S DAILY, WHICH FRONTPAGED HUA KUO-FENG WITH HIS NEW TITLE OF ACTING PREMIER, ALSO PRINTED AN ARTICLE BY MEMBERS OF THE ELECTRONICS RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES WHICH TACKLES THE PROBLEM OF FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE EDUCATION DEBATE BEGAN LAST NOVEMBER. THE GENERAL TONE OF THE ARTICLE STRIKES US AS A DEFENSE OF THE MODERATE POSITION STAKED OUT AT THE FOURTH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS, BUT THE FACT THAT THE ARTICLE WAS PUBLISHED COULD MEAN, IN THE PRESENT ATMOSPHERE OF IDEOLOGICAL FERMENT, THAT THIS POLICY TOO IS COMING UNDER ATTACK.

2. ENTITLED "REFUTE THE THEORY THAT THE PRESENT IS NOT AS
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GOOD AS THE PAST," THE ARTICLE RECOUNTS RECENT CRITICISM

THAT CHINESE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WORK HAS REACHED A "CRISIS" BECAUSE OF "BLIND TALK ABOUT SELF-RELIANCE" IN THE PAST FEW YEARS. ACCORDING TO THIS CRITICISM, SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT HAS REACHED A STATE OF PARALYSIS, TO WHICH THE ONLY SOLUTION IS A GREATER EFFORT TO KEEP UP WITH FOREIGN SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENTS.

3. THE AUTHORS REJECT THIS CRITICISM AS A PHILOSOPHY OF SERVILITY TO THINGS FOREIGN AND "CRAWLING AT A SNAIL'S PACE". THEY GO ON, HOWEVER, TO QUOTE CHAIRMAN MAO IN FAVOR OF LEARNING FROM FOREIGN EXPERIENCE--A QUOTE USED BY CHOU-EN-LAI AT THE NPC A YEAR AGO. THE ARTICLE POINTS OUT THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT SOME FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT AND READ SOME FOREIGN BOOKS, ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLE OF "MAKING FOREIGN THINGS SERVE CHINA."

4. THE ARTICLE, THEN, WHILE ATTACKING OVERRELIANCE ON FOREIGNERS, IS IN FACT A DEFENSE OF A MODERATE, CAREFUL USE OF FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY. AS SUCH, IT APPEARS QUITE SIMILAR IN TONE TO ARGUMENTS DENOUNCED EARLIER THIS MONTH IN RED FLAG ATTEMPTING TO GIVE MODERNIZATION EQUAL IMPORTANCE TO CLASS STRUGGLE. SURFACING THE ARTICLE AT THIS TIME INDICATES THAT FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY IMPORTS ARE ONCE AGAIN CONSIDERED FAIR GAME IN THE SPREADING DEBATE ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH MODERNIZATION CAN BE PURSUED WITHOUT COMPROMISING CHINA'S IDEOLOGICAL PURITY.

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